

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, June 28. 1712.

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**W**E are now in a most Critical Juncture of Affairs, perhaps a Crisis of more Consequence never happened to this Nation; let no one wonder if a Man of the least Consideration, is wary and cautious how he delivers himself upon this Occasion; perhaps I cannot go the lengths which some Men go both Ways, or join with the Extremes on either Side.

I have been on the Article of *Jacobitism*, and have spoken my Mind freely, as I purpose to do on all Oc-

casions, if I speak at all; but I am call'd off, to speak of Government, Ministry, Peace and War, I hope a Man may desire a Peace without being for the Pretender, or else our Circumstances are worse than I think them.

For my part, I take the Matter of the Pretender to lie quite out of the Question; I look upon it as *Lysurgus* did on the Sin of Parricide, a Thing not to be named among his Citizens; and shall only say one Thing of it before I proceed, relating

ting to the present Addressors ; I am not against the People's Addressing on all Occasions they think fit, but in this Case, let our Addressors remember, that exact Lists will be taken, not by me only, but by many more, of those who do mention the House of *Hannover* in their Addressès, and those that do not— And no doubt, those that do not, design we should reckon them for *Jacobites*, and they will be reckon'd for such without fail ; for as her Majesty has testify'd in her late Speech, her Concern for, and her steady adhering to the Interest of the Protestant Succession in the approaching Peace ; so those who thank her Majesty for her great Care in the Peace, for the Good of her People, but omit that of the Succession in the House of *Hannover*, strongly imply, that they do not esteem the Protestant Succession to be for the Good of the People ——— So that it can be no Affront, to reckon all those Addressors as Enemies to the Protestant Succession and the House of *Hannover*, who make no mention of it in their said Addressès : This is but a short Remark, but the Gentlemen may find it of use to them, and may see the Reason for it hereafter.

Had the Queen left it out of her Speech ; had it been omitted in the Articles propos'd for a Peace, perhaps I should have call'd it a *Jacobite Peace*, and said the Queen was for the Pretender, *as fast as other People* ; but as her Majesty has never omitted it in her Speeches, or omitted

to put it into the Articles, but always express'd a Zealous Concern for it, as what was near her Heart, on all these Occasions, they must have some other Views than the Queen, who omit it in their Addressès ——— And I would only hint to those People, who would leave the Protestant Succession out of their Addressès, that they would remember it may come to pass, that the *House of Hannover* may come to succeed her Majesty, such a Thing by chance may one Time or other happen, (long may it be first, tho' certain it may be) But whenever it shall be, and the Account, or List of who did, and did not mention that Succession, as one Thing they thank'd her Majesty for, in their Addressès, may come to be seen by that Successor, how simply will those People look at that time, unless they can believe the Successor shall be neither capable of. Justice nor Resentment?

On all these Accounts, I say, I have resolv'd to take an exact List of those Addressès, which take notice of the Protestant Succession of the House of *Hannover*, and to mark them as Friends of the Pretender who do not ; and let this for the future, be the *Shibboleth* of the Party, and so much for that Affair.

But what is all this to the Case before us ? Why must the Pretender be the Dead Weight in the Article of Peace or War, as I said above ? Sure a Man may be for a Peace and yet against the Pretender, or else it is very hard ; for my part,

part, I must own I see equal Danger of him, let the War and the Peace go which Way they will for it is my Opinion, and I must insist upon it, that the Danger of the Pretender among us is not from Abroad, but at HOME, nor shall we be less able, but more able to Resist him at Home in Time of Peace, than in Time of War, even tho' that Peace were to be made upon worse Terms than yet appears, but of this by itself.

To return now to the Case of the War; as I said above, this is a Crisis, such perhaps, as Europe was never under for many Ages past — As 'tis dangerous in point of Censure; so I confess it is difficult in point of Judgment, to determine what is the Foundation either part act upon; but something may be said — The Dutch (good People) are in a great strait, and I believe know not well how to act, I pray God direct both Us and them to take right Steps, I'll speak to them all in course, but I begin with the Dutch.

The States-General lie in the middle between two Extremes, viz. The Queen of Great Britain and the Emperor: Her Majesty has declar'd for a Peace, and made the Terms publick — In which she has been pleas'd to signify, that the Ends for which the War was begun, are Answer'd; After what the Queen has said, I am not for Debating whether they are or no, the Emperor is on the other Extreme; I am persuaded, the Dutch, who are a wise

and a Politick People, would be glad to make a Peace; the Circumstances of their Nation, their Commerce and their Constitution make it natural to them to desire it; perhaps they would obtain some Additional Terms, which no doubt also the French would comply with, to bring them over, if the Thing was fully Treated on.

But the Emperor seeing the delicious morsel snatch'd from him, and the Spanish Monarchy which he has set his Heart upon, not given up to him; he rejects the Peace, and insists upon the War — Between these two, the Dutch have a nice Case to determine, and on this, the whole Affair turns.

I confess my Opinion is, the Dutch know too well their own Interest, and know better what the Weight is that must lie upon them, in carrying on this War, than to be drawn into such a Hazard; But what is my Opinion to the Judgment of the Town, who all believe other Things? And indeed who knows? For Nations often act against themselves. Oh, how Cavalierly now do our Gentlemen talk of the Formidable Forces of the Emperor, who lately Represented him as an Impotent Prince, and to whom the Spanish Monarchy might safely be annex'd without any Danger to the Protestant Interest, which I confess I never believ'd? But that by the Way.

I readily grant, if the Emperor will faithfully exert himself, which no Emperor before him ever did, he

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is not at all incapable of Supporting the *Dutch* in carrying on this War; and as the *French* Power has been batter'd and broken by *British* *Valor*, and Blood, may, if they undertake it heartily, do much; for when a Strong Man is knock'd down, he that durst not look him in the Face before, may come and cut his Throat: it is true, that the Peace in *Hungary*, and the Possession of all *Italy*, gives the Emperor both Treasure and Troops to Employ this Way, which he had not before; and when he sees nothing else but a vigorous pushing at it can do his Business, he may do much for his own Interest, who never did much for Ours.

But if the Emperor can do this, we have been finely Treated by the former Emperors; and what have we to curse their *High-Dutch* Management for, who have been Sacrificing us so many Years past, and who have reap'd the Fruit of our *Blood and Treasure*, while they have made the War a meer Game of Chess, to last for Ages, and to be left for Posterity to play out: Whereas, had they done their Duty, and perform'd as we have done, the War had been ended long ago?

But when all the Bluster we make

of the Emperor, is over, there goes so many Articles more to make up that one Point, *viz. Carrying on the War*; that I cannot yet think the *Dutch* will Embark in it, I will not be positive, but I say I cannot think it; if the Queen should declare positively, That she will not go on with the War any longer, the *Dutch* know too well their own Interest and their own Strength, and what they have to trust to; their Strength in *Flanders* is not all the Case, the War is carried on in many other Parts, and all the Princes in those parts have been supported by Us, and must now by them, or perhaps they will fall off too: We see no great Appearance of the Duke of *Savoy* coming into the Field, or of the *Portuguese* being able to defend himself, and if either of those Princes make Peace, the Armies Employ'd against them are as so many Auxiliaries to *France*.

I shall say no more than this to it; I will not determine, but I cannot believe, that we have had so little a Share in this War; that the Confederates, I mean the *Dutch*, can Undertake, or will Engage to carry it on without Us. I shall, in my next, Enquire into the probable Views so e pretend to have for the other Opinion.